APPENDIX F

Section 7 Correspondence with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



United States Department of the Interior

TAKE PRIDE'

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Albuquerque Field Office 435 Montano Road NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4935 www.nm.blm.gov

In Reply Refer To: 6843 (010)

July 22, 2004

Memorandum

To: State Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

New Mexico Ecological Services Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico

From: Field Manager, Albuquerque, NM

Subject: Kasha Katuwee Tent Rocks National Monument Plan/Environmental Impact

Statement for the Albuquerque Field Office

As you may be aware, the Albuquerque Field Office is beginning the process of preparing Management Plan (MP) with accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Kasha Katuwee Tent Rocks National Monument.

As part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) responsibility under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM is required to request a current species list, or provide a list for your concurrence for the affected areas being evaluated. Earlier this month, Pam Herrera-Olivas of my staff, acquired a species list (dated June 28, 2004) for New Mexico by county from your office.

The BLM is requesting your concurrence that this list is the most current and should be used by our offices as the initial list for beginning preparation of the MP/EIS. This MP/EIS process is anticipated to take approximately 11 months to complete, and we will stay in contact to make sure that the species list has not changed in that time period.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Pam Herrera-Olivas at (505) 761-8918.

Ed Singleton,

Field Office Manager



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office AUG 26 AH II: 06 2105 Osuna NE

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August 23, 2004

Cons. # 2-22-04-I-0600

Memorandum

To:

Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque, New Mexico

From:

Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Subject:

Kasha Katuwee Tent Rocks National Monument Plan/Environmental Impact

Statement for the Albuquerque Field Office

Thank you for your July 22, 2004, memorandum requesting information on threatened or endangered species that could be affected by the proposed Management Plan for Kasha Katuwee Tent Rocks National Monument (Monument) in Sandoval County, New Mexico. The Monument is approximately 5,395 acres, located about 40 miles southwest of Santa Fe and 55 miles northeast of Albuquerque.

We have attached a current list of federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species, and species of concern that may be found in Sandoval County, New Mexico. Under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (Act), it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with us further. If your action area has suitable habitat for any of these species, we recommend that species-specific surveys be conducted during the flowering season for plants and at the appropriate time for wildlife to evaluate any possible project-related impacts. Please keep in mind that the scope of federally listed species compliance also includes any interrelated or interdependent project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations) and any indirect or cumulative effects.

Candidates and species of concern have no legal protection under the Act and are included in this document for planning purposes only. We monitor the status of these species. If significant declines are detected, these species could potentially be listed as endangered or threatened.

¹ Additional information about these species is available on the Internet at http://nmnhp.unm.edu/bisonm/bisonquery.php, and http://ifw2es.fws.gov/endangeredspecies>.

FEDERAL ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES AND SPECIES OF CONCERN IN NEW MEXICO Consultation Number 2-22-04-I-0600

August 23, 2004

Sandoval County

ENDANGERED

Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)**
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) with critical habitat

THREATENED

Bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)
Mexican spotted owl (Strix occidentalis lucida) with critical habitat

CANDIDATE

Yellow-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus)

SPECIES OF CONCERN

Goat Peak pika (Ochotona princeps nigrescens)

New Mexican meadow jumping mouse (Zapus hudsonius luteus)

Townsend's big-eared bat (Corynorhinus townsendii)

American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum)

Arctic peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus tundrius)

Baird's sparrow (Ammodramus bairdii)

Mountain plover (Charadrius montanus)

Northern goshawk (Accipiter gentiles)

Western burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia hypugea)

Rio Grande cutthroat trout (Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis)

Rio Grande sucker (Catostomus plebeius)

Jemez Mountain salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*)

New Mexico silverspot butterfly (Speyeria nokomis nitocris)

San Ysidro tiger beetle (Cicindela willistoni funaroi)

William Lar's tiger beetle (Cicindela fulgida williamlarsi)

Gypsum phacelia (*Phacelia* sp. nov.)

Gypsum townsendia (Townsendia gypsophila)

Knight's milk-vetch (Astragalus knightii)

Parish's alkali grass (Puccinellia parishii)

Endangered = Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened = Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Candidate = Candidate Species (taxa for which the Service has sufficient information to propose that they be added to list of endangered and threatened species, but the listing action has been precluded by other higher priority listing activities).

Proposed = Any species of fish, wildlife or plant that is proposed in the Federal Register to be listed under section 4 of the Act.

Species of

Concern = Taxa for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve their conservation status <u>OR</u> are considered sensitive, rare, or declining on lists maintained by Natural Heritage Programs, State wildlife agencies, other Federal agencies, or professional/academic scientific societies. Species of Concern are included for planning purposes only.

* = Introduced population

** = Survey should be conducted if project involves impacts to prairie dog towns or complexes of 200-acres or more for the Gunnison's prairie dog (Cynomys gunnisoni) and/or 80-acres or more for any subspecies of Black-tailed prairie dog (Cynomys ludovicianus). A complex consists of two or more neighboring prairie dog towns within 4.3 miles (7 kilometers) of each other.

*** = Extirpated in this county

† = May occur in this county from re-introductions in Colorado.